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Torrance Herald

IN THE HERALD TODAY

Church News ... 29 Obituaries 5
Editorials 20 Society 9-12
Features 19 Sports 24
Home & Garden 17 Want Ads 32-36

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

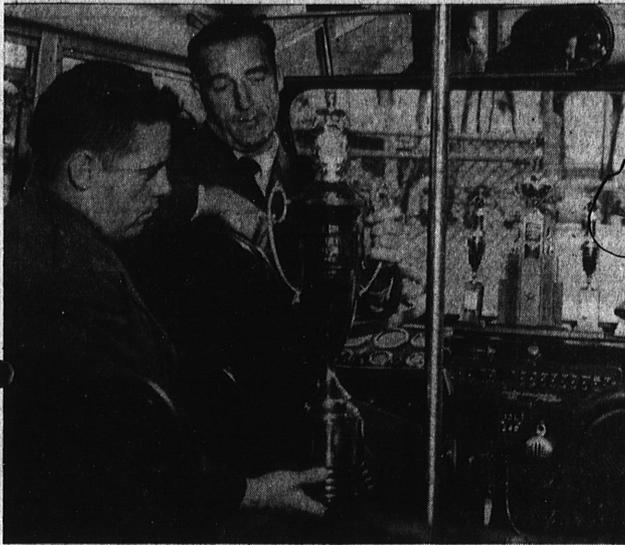
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12

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THE CHAMPS . . . Al Thompson and Wayne Branum admired the sweepstakes trophy which Branum won in the Southern California School Bus Roдео last Saturday. Branum copped first in the sweepstakes and large transit bus divisions, while Thompson was a first prize winner in the large conventional bus competition. Both are drivers for the Torrance Unified School District. Branum stands a good chance to be state champion if his score is better than the Northern California winner to be crowned Saturday.

Branum Winner In Bus Roдео

Wayne Branum, bus driver for the Torrance Unified School District, drove off with the title of the best school bus driver in Southern California Saturday. This week, he may become the best driver in all California. Branum won the sweepstakes title in the Southern California School Bus Roдео held last Saturday at Hollywood Park, while another Torrance driver, Al Thompson, was picked the best driver in

Board Okays \$607,270 Bid For Building

A bid of \$607,270 for work on the new educational materials building, warehouse, bus garage, and other facilities to be located across the street from the Board of Education office, 2335 Plaza del Amo, was accepted by the Torrance school board Tuesday night.

The new educational materials building will house books, films, records, and other educational aids used throughout the school district. Other facilities are needed to house maintenance equipment for the rapidly expanding school district.

Low bidder for the work was the Herbert Goldsworthy Co., which submitted the lowest of eight bids ranging up to \$711,000.

Work will start immediately on the project with a Feb. 8, 1958, completion date set.

County Seeks Palos Verdes Golf Course

Negotiation for acquisition of 173 acres of Palos Verdes Hills property for development of a new scenic coastal championship 18-hole golf course for Los Angeles County has been ordered by the board of supervisors.

As soon as the County can obtain possession of the acreage overlooking the Pacific on the west slope of Palos Verdes Hills, the County will begin its improvement program, according to Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Design of the course will be entrusted to golf course Architect William Bell Jr. There will be a complete clubhouse facility which also will serve new public tennis courts erected in conjunction with the golf course improvements.

The new Palos Verdes County golf course will be situated northwest of Crest Rd. and east of Palos Dr. West.

"By national standards, the County of Los Angeles is already short several golf courses on the basis of its population, and it is imperative that the board of supervisors acquire available parcels of large acreage before they are cut up for subdivision purposes," Chace said.

COAST CITIES UNITE IN FREEWAY BATTLE

Realignment of Carson Ordered

Realignment of Carson St. near Torrance High School to give motorists a straight shot through what is now a park was approved by the City Council this week as City Engineer Ronald W. Bishop was instructed to procure the easements for the roadway.

The Council approved a design for the street change submitted by Bishop at its meeting Tuesday night. It had previously been studied and was one of several designs studied by the city's traffic commission.

The Council also approved a project list submitted by Hampden Wentworth, president of Longren Aircraft, in his efforts to minimize objections to operations at the plant at Carson St. and Date Ave.

To Muffle Sound A series of projects designed to muffle sounds, and to care for the traffic at the plant was submitted by Wentworth at the Council's request after complaints of residents in the area focused attention on the firm.

Outspoken critic of the Longren operation, Walter Wittman, who owns and is now building income residential property near the plant, accused the Council of "pacifying" the matter, and protested the acceptance of the Wentworth proposals.

The Council also severed relations with the Chamber of Commerce when it voted to back Mayor Albert Isen's proposal to bounce Councilman Willys Blount as the city's representative on the Chamber of Commerce Board of directors.

Not Surprised The move came as no surprise as Blount had reported earlier that Isen and Bob Jahn approached him and asked him to resign.

"I was appointed in an open Council meeting and if you want to kick me off, you can do that in an open Council meeting," Blount said he told his colleagues.

In other actions, the Council:

1. Threw out all bids on one-half ton and one-half trucks and ordered new bids advertised.

2. Approved job descriptions for police officer, matron and file clerk, traffic painting leadman, concrete construction leadman, and street maintenance leadman.

3. Approved recommendations of Engineer Bishop to improve Arlington Ave., Carson St., and others from State gas tax funds (See Sunday HERALD).

4. Approved franchise ordinance for Weber-Butler Oil Co.
5. Instructed City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier to draw up ordinances regulating distribution of handbills, and an anti-noise ordinance.

6. Voted down proposal by Jahn to form assessment districts to pay for street lighting power and maintenance.
7. Ordered proceeding started to rezone beach area proposed as site for hotel and cited Don-Ja-Ran Co. before Council on May 28 to show cause why the proceedings should not be instituted.

8. Met in "Star Chamber" session to hear proposal for development of airport triangle at Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Hwy.

Two Burglary Suspects in Court May 20

Two Torrance area men have been held to answer charges of first degree burglary using explosives in a Long Beach Superior Court on May 20.

Held were Coy Lee Hall, 24, of 2067 W. 236th St., and Clay Trice "Blackie" Thomas, 44, of 2005 W. 204th St. They were ordered to the high court Monday after preliminary hearings in Long Beach by Municipal Judge Percy Hight.

Hall and Thomas allegedly used an explosive on a Long Beach service station safe where they were arrested April 14.

Hall is one of three persons scheduled to be sentenced May 29 on another first degree robbery charge which he admitted after his April 14 arrest. He was awaiting hearing on the first robbery charge when he was arrested the second time.

City Worker Gets Honors From Council

Robert K. Rogers Jr., engineering inspector in the city engineering department, was awarded a certificate of completion of the Safety Engineers' Institute this week by the City Council after he had completed the course sponsored by the State Bureau of Industrial Education.

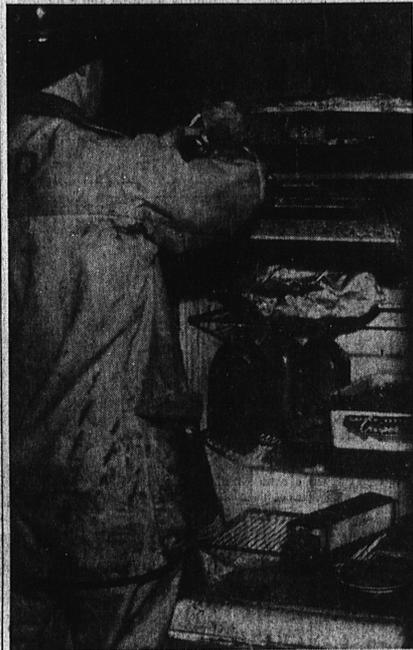
Rogers, a member of the city's staff for five years, has been attending the University of Southern California where he now is a junior.

A former counterintelligence officer with the U. S. Army with 11 years as a commission officer, Rogers was cited by the Council Tuesday for his efforts to improve his knowledge of engineering skills through study. He was presented the citation during a meeting of the Council and it was ordered to be made a part of his permanent personnel record with the city.

Annual Area Chest Meet Set Thursday

The 1957 annual meeting of the Los Angeles Area Community Chest is set for noon, Thursday, May 16, at the Stalder Hotel, Jay Albert Robinson, chairman, Harbor Area Welfare Federation Board, announced yesterday.

Harbor Area members of the board of governors of the Chest and local agency representatives are invited to the meeting, which will include election of officers for the Community Chest.



THE LAST SPARK . . . Getting to the last spark which remained after flames roared through the office and adjoining apartments at the Western Ave. Trailer Court early today is Fireman Bill Orr, who is tackling the seals on the kitchen refrigerator.

3 Fires Prove Marshal's Point

Three fires in Torrance this week helped to prove what Fire Marshal Robert Lucas declared in an article on fire prevention in Sunday's HERALD, when he said that the leading causes of fires in Torrance are children playing with matches and smoking.

Probable causes of the three fires reported this week were children playing with matches, 2; and smoking, 1, according to firemen.

Biggest of the three fires was at 21739 Western Ave., where an apartment was more than 60 per cent gutted by fire early Wednesday morning. Firemen said that the probable cause of the blaze which started in a corner of the kitchen area was smoking.

Firemen battled the flames for nearly 40 minutes in the apartment, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Jo Lee. The fire was reported by Mrs. Lee who was awakened by the smoke. Lee was away at work at the time.

Authorities are holding an eight-year-old boy in connection with a fire at the Paul LaBelle residence, 20028 Bernist Ave., Tuesday morning. The LaBelles were away at the time and apparently the boy wandered in, breaking some dishes and starting fires in a dinette and atop the washing machine and stove.

The boy himself called Redondo Beach firemen, but was unable to give the address, so firemen kept him talking until the operator could trace the call. She then notified Torrance firemen who rushed to the scene. Damage was fairly extensive.

Boy Gets Matches Six-year-old Lawrence Palmer, confined in bed with the measles, apparently got hold of some matches and started

Joint Effort Against Change In Route Told

Southwest county cities continue to line up behind Torrance and the Inter-City Highway Committee in a fight to oppose changes now in the routing of the San Diego Freeway through the area, I-CHC Committee Chairman Wilburn E. Baker reported yesterday.

Moves by the communities of Lennox and Lawndale to have the freeway re-routed now, although the route has been established for several years and much of the right-of-way acquired, has been opposed formally by the committee, and cities up and down the length of the highway are joining the protest on changes, Baker said.

Inglewood Protests Latest to add their weight behind the Inter-City protest was the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce which this week voted to approve the present routing.

Costly and unjustifiable delays would result from the re-routing of the San Diego Freeway now, the Inglewood boosters reported in their resolution of objection.

Copies of the Inglewood Chamber's resolution are on their way to the State Highway Commission and other interested groups.

Campaign Urged At the same time, Councilman Nick Draie, one of the Torrance representatives on the Inter-City Committee, urged a mail campaign by the million residents of the South Coast area to speed construction of the freeway as it is now proposed.

"The State Highway Commission should hear from every resident of Torrance, the South Bay, and Centinella Valley, and Governor Knight should hear from them, too," Draie told members of the Hollywood Riviera Homeowners at a meeting.

Draie warned that the area faced traffic strangulation unless the freeway program designed for the area was accelerated.

Fight Pledged On the other side of the fence—or freeway—the Lennox Chamber of Commerce threatened to go "over the head" of the State Highway Commission in its efforts to get the route changed in the Lennox-Lawndale area.

Chamber President James Dempsey said that if their efforts to re-route the freeway were not headed by the Highway Commission, that the Chamber will begin contacting elected representatives from the area.

Council Backs Plan The Lennox group wants the freeway to follow the general line of Aviation Blvd.

Stating that freeway plans might be delayed from 7 to 10 years if the route is changed, the Torrance City Council this week formally adopted a resolution re-approving the present San Diego Freeway routing and backing the stand of the Inter-City Committee.

Young GOP To Meet Here

An organization meeting will be held Monday evening, May 13, at 7:30 at Capri's restaurant, by the Torrance Young GOP.

The Torrance club will kick off their membership drive in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Young Republicans. Any person wishing to become a member are invited to attend this dinner meet and file application.

Bill Roberts, president of the Los Angeles County Young GOP, will be guest speaker and outline some of the coming events for the club's work.

"It is time we had a congressman to represent us here in the 17th District who will get action where needed and not just claim a title as has been the case for the past several years. This will be one of our most important jobs in coming months," stated Bob Aguilar, club president.

Channel Job Bids Awarded

The award of a \$2,048,000 contract for the permanent improvement of the Dominguez Channel between Denker and Vermont Aves. was announced yesterday by Supervisor Kenneth Kahn.

Contract was awarded to the Guy F. Atkinson Co. which was authorized to begin work immediately, on its low bid, which was \$157,000 under the engineer's estimate of cost.

The project will include construction of this reach of the channel on a new alignment, south of and parallel to 174th St.; filling in of the old channel route, and a number of slough areas; construction of new bridges on Vermont and Normandie Aves., and extension of the Normandie Ave. bond issue storm drain.